

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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Herger Hails Passage of Measures in Support of Armed Forces, Veterans

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- With Congressman Herger's strong support, this week the House of Representatives passed two measures supporting America's armed forces in the War on Terror, and our nation's veterans. On Wednesday, the House passed H.R. 1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006, a funding blueprint primarily for the Department of Defense, by a vote of 390-39. On Thursday, H.R. 2528, the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, passed by a vote of 425-1.

"As we approach Memorial Day, America honors all who have sacrificed while defending our great country," Herger stated. "The Americans who served our country in uniform are the reason our country shines brightly as the leading defender of freedom. It is because of their sacrifices that we are blessed to live in a country that is free and prosperous.

"The defense bill authorizes funding for equipment, weapons systems, and training that will help the brave men and women of our armed forces continue to successfully prosecute the War on Terror," Herger said. "It is of the highest priority to provide our armed forces every tool they need to defeat an enemy that employs desperate tactics in their pursuit to harm America.

"The House-passed military and veterans funding bill appropriates unprecedented funds for American veterans. Even in this challenging budget climate, this legislation, which represents a 42% funding increase since 2001, makes it clear that supporting our veterans remains a top priority. I will continue to support this and other measures that help ensure our veterans' needs are met."

Among its many provisions, H.R. 1815 authorizes a 3.1% pay raise for service members and permanently increases to \$100,000 the death gratuity given to families of fallen servicemen. It also authorizes funding for equipment and vehicles, including improvised explosive device (IED) jammers and up-armored Humvees. H.R. 2528 funds the Department of Veterans Affairs at \$68 billion for fiscal year 2006. It also funds treatment for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, military construction projects, and housing allowances for service members.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!